



**STRAIGHT TALK  
ABOUT WHAT YOU  
CAN DO TO  
PRESERVE YOUR  
RIGHT TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**

# CCRKBA BATTLING GUN CONTROL BILLS

As a number of anti-gun bills were introduced during the opening days of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder vowed that the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms would be fighting hard against them.

“Even though it’s obvious now that the public generally opposes severely restrictive gun control measures,” Snyder said, “that there are a number of anti-gun die-hards in Congress who persist in their efforts to impose these measures upon the law-abiding American public. We will continue to oppose these die-hard gun grabbers during this Congress as we have during previous Congresses. We ask all of our members and supporters to join us in this effort by contacting their own congressmen and letting them know what they think of these proposals.”

One of the first anti-gun bills introduced is H.R. 24, by Rep. Xavier Becerra of California, to require ballistics testing of firearms manufactured in or imported into the United States. Ironically, two studies conducted by the California Department of Justice at the behest of California Attorney General Bill Lockyer show that ballistic imaging could be a failure as a crime-fighting tool, because the technology – according to experts – does not work.

Another anti-gun bill is H.R. 124, by Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey, to provide for the mandatory licensing and registration of handguns. Both have been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

One of the veteran gun-grabbing war horses in Congress, Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, has lined up a Who’s Who of anti-gun representatives in a move to extend current Brady Law criminal background check requirements to gun shows.

The Conyers bill, H.R. 260, includes 27 other Democrats as co-sponsors. It has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Conyers is Ranking Member.

Snyder also pointed out CCRKBA supports pro-gun bills that have been introduced. Among these are H.R. 153, the proposed Second Amendment Protection Act, introduced by Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, and H.R. 193, the proposed Second Amendment Rights Protection Act, introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley of Colorado. Both have been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

H.R. 153 would repeal the Brady Law, the current ban on certain semi-automatic firearms, and provisions in federal law allowing the prohibition of the importation of firearms which BATF determines are not suitable for “sporting purposes.”

H.R. 193, would require that no funding be appropriated for the implementation of the instant criminal record check system set up under the Brady Act that does not require and result in the immediate destruction of all information, in any form, submitted by or on behalf of any person who is not prevented from owning a firearm.



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**CITIZENS  
COMMITTEE  
FOR THE RIGHT  
TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**  
*(a non-profit corporation)*  
National Headquarters:  
12500 N.E. Tenth Place  
Bellevue, Washington 98005  
  
Capitol Hill Office:  
1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20005

# NEW STATE GUN CONTROLS LIMIT SELF-DEFENSE OPTIONS

By Jeff Johnson, CNSNews.com

Residents of at least two states could face a tougher time defending themselves with a handgun, as a result of new laws enacted by their legislators that took effect last month.

On Jan. 1, Maryland became the first state in the nation to require that only new handguns with internal trigger locks could be sold in the state. Only six handgun models currently meet the law's standards, and those firearms are relatively expensive, compared to weapons commonly purchased by civilians for self-defense.

Gun control supporters claim the law will protect children from accidental firearm discharges.

"This will save lives," claimed Matt Fenton, President of Marylanders Against Handgun Abuse, Inc.

But Second Amendment supporters believe the law's proponents have another goal.

"It will reduce our handgun sales by 80 to 85 percent," Jack Barnhart, owner of Outdoor Sportsman, Inc. in Essex, told the Baltimore Daily Record. "It's going to have a tremendous impact."

Barnhart called the law "foolish," noting that more than 70 percent of his handgun customers are buying the weapon to protect their families at home.

"They won't leave it in the house with the lock on," he said. "Imagine being awakened in the middle of the night and having to fiddle with a lock when confronting an intruder."

Republican Governor-elect Robert Ehrlich promised to review all of Maryland's stringent gun restrictions if elected, but at least some Maryland gun owners are not waiting to see if that will happen. At least two lawsuits have been prepared challenging the trigger lock law.

New Jersey will become the first state to require so-called "smart gun"

technology, though the law won't actually take effect for at least three years. The technology to block a handgun from firing unless it is held by an authorized user does not currently exist according to gun manufacturers and safety experts.

Self-defense groups and Second Amendment advocates have complained that legislators demonstrated their lack of faith in the yet-to-be-created technology, when they exempted law enforcement officers from the restrictions.

"We are offended by the dual standard and the implication that somehow our lives are less precious than those of our fine law enforcement officers, who have been granted exemption from this legislation due to reliability concerns," said the New Jersey Coalition for Self-Defense (NJCSA) in a press release.

"When this technology is good enough for the police, then and only then will we consider it worthy for our use as well," the release states.

On the eve of the law's enactment, one political candidate said he also is opposed to the so-called "smart gun" law, for the same reason.

"It exempts police officers from the law, and allows them to purchase cheaper, non-smart gun weapons," said Albert Zeller, II, a Constitution Party candidate for New Jersey's District 17 Senate seat in 2003. "That makes it seem the police are worth more than the common citizen."

NJCSA noted that in requiring that unproven technology be incorporated into handguns, Democratic Gov. James E. McGreevey and his supporters are ignoring a fundamental law of engineering.

"A simpler mechanism is always more reliable than a complex one," the group observed. "In light of this, we can predict that it only will be a matter of time till you see headlines

similar to 'Mother dies defending her children during home invasion due to (smart gun's) dead battery.'"

NJCSA noted that firearms are used by civilians in self-defense as many as two million times a year, and predicted the law would eventually make it more difficult for citizens to defend themselves from criminals. The law mandates that the restriction cannot be enforced until three years after the state's attorney general rules that the technology "works safely."



# POINT BLANK

*"Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms."*

**Editor** John M. Snyder  
**Publisher** Alan M. Gottlieb  
**Managing Editor** J. H. Versnel  
Dave Workman  
**Associate Editors** Mike Connelly  
Tom Gresham  
Merrill Jacobs  
Bob Kukla  
Peggy Tartaro  
Joe Waldron

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# CCRKBA DEBUNKS 'BALLISTIC IMAGING'

When a report on so-called "ballistic fingerprinting" by experts with the California Department of Justice (CalDOJ) cast serious doubt on the technology's usefulness as a crime-fighting tool, anti-gun California Attorney General Bill Lockyer – a ballistic imaging proponent – sat on it for nearly a year, and ordered up an independent evaluation he hoped would refute his own experts.

But Dave Workman, communications director for the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, took Lockyer to task in an opinion piece that circulated to several newspapers around the country. Workman, who is also senior editor of *Gun Week*, revealed that Dr. Jan De Kinder, head of the National Institute for Forensic Science's Ballistics Section in Brussels, Belgium had reached the same conclusion that Lockyer's own staff reported in October 2001. De Kinder's report was released, after some delay, by CalDOJ almost embarrassingly on the same day that Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn, Councilman Nick Pacheco and Police Chief William J. Bratton gathered on a Los Angeles street corner for a media event, in which they called upon Congress to make ballistic fingerprinting a national mandate.

In his revealing article, Workman noted, "De Kinder's 22-page report, which includes an executive summary, is an eye opener for anyone not wearing the blinders of a gun control extremist. The ballistics expert tested 782 Smith & Wesson Model 4006 semi-automatic pistols, firing each gun using ammunition from Federal Cartridge and other sources. He recovered the fired Federal cartridge cases, and registered one case from each gun into the Integrated Ballistic

Imaging System (IBIS) database. The IBIS system is manufactured by Forensic Technology, Inc., a firm based in Washington, D.C."

Workman further noted that, "De Kinder then selected 50 duplicate casings at random, and compared them with his database. Ballistic imaging, he explained in his report, ranks how well each entered mark matches the evidence, meaning it compares marks on casings submitted as evidence with data from casings already registered in the system. For the system to be successful, the correct gun should be listed in the top few ranks.

"De Kinder's evaluation revealed," Workman reported, "that a startling 38 percent of the 50 pistols he checked were not listed in the top 15 ranks. That is, he could not get a successful match from over one-third of the pistols he had just tested, even though he was comparing data that he had just entered into the system. When he repeated the experiment with a different brand of ammunition, the match failure rate rose to 62.5 percent of the comparisons not showing up in the top 15 ranks."

In his executive summary, De Kinder made the situation even more bleak for ballistic imaging proponents: "(T)he trends in the obtained results show that the situation worsens as the number of firearms in the database is increased."

Translation: The more data entered into a ballistics imaging database from an increasing number of firearms, the more prone the system is to failure in terms of being able to match a test case against information stored in the system.

Workman properly noted that the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms disputed De Kinder's results, insisting that primers on Fed-

eral cartridges are harder than those on Remington-Peters ammunition, which BATF favored for the test. De Kinder measured the hardness between Federal and Remington-Peters primers, and actually found the Federal primers to be softer.

In a further revelation, Workman noted that De Kinder said officials with Forensic Technology, Inc. had asked that eight of the individually tested cartridge cases be removed from the evaluation because the company's firearms examiners could not visually match them with other cases. In his report, De Kinder writes, "FTI proposed to remove them from the statistics to achieve better results. This is unacceptable. As the... evaluation discusses the applicability of an automated comparison system to the problem of mass-produced firearms, all data points have to be taken into consideration. The goal of a ballistic fingerprinting system is not restricted to those cartridge cases that can be identified by a trained firearm examiner."

In his executive summary, De Kinder noted, "It is important to mention that when starting a ballistic fingerprinting database, the technology and the protocols have to be well established and oriented towards future compatibility. A (sic) evaluation of different technologies has to be performed, prior to choosing for an existing solution. If this is not done so, the chances are that the now established database will be rendered obsolete in a couple of years."

Workman concluded his piece, noting, "The experts say it does not work and may never work as a crime solving tool, yet the gun control crowd is demanding that it become a very expensive national mandate.

## CCRKBA Applauds Student Action:

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY RIPPED OVER BELLESILES BOOK AWARD

In what could be the beginning of an intellectual counterattack on anti-gun "politically correct" propagandizing at some universities, the Columbia College Conservative Club (CCCC) issued a blistering attack on that institution's Bancroft Committee and History Department for its behavior regarding the controversy over discredited author Michael Bellesiles' book *Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*.

Soon after the book was published, Columbia's Bancroft Committee awarded it the prestigious Bancroft Prize. Late last year, under pressure from various organizations including the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, the CCCC and others, that award was rescinded.

In congratulating the club for its action, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder said that, "One of the difficulties we have had over the years in fighting to maintain the right to keep and bear arms is the intellectual dishonesty on the issue we have had to face from some supposedly sophisticated academic quarters. The Bellesiles case as it is developing is exposing the intellectual rot which lies at the root of some of these difficulties."

Snyder lauded the Conservative Club "for having the courage and integrity to stand up for the truth."

"We encourage them and like-minded youth at other institutions to keep up the good work," Snyder stated. "Through the intellectual honesty of students, we may, hopefully, begin to rectify the intellectual corruption that is apparently rampant at some of our institutions of higher learning."

Ron Lewenberg, the club's founder, declared that the case "shows the need for institutional reform in the Bancroft Committee and the Columbia History Department."

Ever since Columbia announced its choice of Bellesiles as a 2001 Bancroft

Award winner for *Arming America*, Lewenberg wrote, "they have been under increasing pressure to reevaluate their position due to the historical inaccuracies and irregular research methodology in the book."

In his book, Bellesiles alleged that very few people actually owned and used guns in the early days of America, based on research that was later shown to be erroneous, contradictory and possibly fabricated. He attempted to show that the idea of a traditional American "gun culture" was just a myth concocted by the "gun lobby" to justify the right of individuals to keep and bear arms. Subsequent investigation by other scholars demonstrated the fallacy, if not the lack of integrity, of his research methods.

Between the announcement and presentation of the award, wrote Lewenberg, "the committee had willfully ignored all evidence of flaws in the work and thereafter defended the author. Only after Emory University suspended Professor Bellesiles, did Columbia University seriously look into the matter. Despite the 18 months of consistent criticism, Columbia had apparently learned nothing. Its modus operandi has been to belittle criticism of the work and then to engage in damage control.

"The Trustees of Columbia may have rescinded the prize, but they did it quietly, too quietly," he continued. "To ensure minimum press coverage and student response, they released the statement on a Friday immediately preceding the undergraduate exam session. Most notably, the notice is not available on the Columbia web site. Likewise, the Trustees failed to inform the Columbia community or involved student groups. They barely acknowledged their mistake in their press release and went out of their way to protect their ideological bona fides."

The Trustees, in making their decision, "emphasized that the judgment

to rescind the Bancroft Prize was based solely on the questionable scholarship of the work and had nothing to do with the book's content or the author's point of view," they wrote.

"The truth," according to Lewenberg, "is that had the Trustees enforced this standard in the committee choosing Bancroft Award nominees and winners, Bellesiles would never have gotten the award. However, the ideological make-up of the committee precluded honest appraisals of candidates' submissions. To the best of our knowledge, this problem continues unabated. There is no incentive for a member to question an author/historian, with whom he or she disagrees (especially one who has gotten good reviews from the establishment, liberal, media). It is no coincidence that each of the 2001 award winners wrote leftist revisionist books, as is evidenced by their profiles published at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/news/01/04/bancroft.html>.

"The decisions of the Trustees, the History Department, and the Bancroft Award committee have clearly damaged the reputation of the University, its many prizes, and that of the late Secretary of State and donor to Columbia, Frederic Bancroft," he said.

Evenhandedness and professionalism "are not valued in the politically correct atmosphere of academia," declared the Club statement. "Columbia has been taken over by a system that favors proper political views and politicking over academic and historical standards. There needs to be significant structural and personnel reforms in the university staff, History Department, and Trustees."

# GOTTLIEB CALLS ON DC TO DROP HANDGUN BAN

CCRKBA applauded a ruling by Washington, D. C. Superior Court Judge Cheryl M. Long that dismisses a lawsuit against the firearms industry.

“The District is the crime capital as much as it is the capital of our nation,” said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. “The reason for that is simple. Years ago, Washington, D.C. imposed a ban on legally-owned handguns, thus creating an environment where only the criminals are armed, and their intended victims have been left defenseless.”

“If the city really wants to reduce its crime problem, it needs to allow its law-abiding residents the means with which to defend themselves,” Gottlieb observed.

Gottlieb noted that violent crime in the District has risen despite the claims by handgun ban proponents that disarming city residents would make the city safer.

“Lawsuits against gun makers will

not make violent crime go away,” Gottlieb explained. “Taking gun makers to court does nothing to deter violent criminals. Municipal lawsuits like the one filed by Washington, D.C. attempt to punish an industry in a legal system that has not been terribly effective at punishing criminals. That is not justice. It’s denial.”

The city based its lawsuit in part on the Washington, D.C. Assault Weapons Manufacturing Strict Liability Act of 1990.

Judge Long ruled that the city exceeded its legal authority by attempting to use the law in such a sweeping way.

Peter Lavallo, a spokesman for the Office of the D.C. Corporation Counsel, said that the city’s legal arm is deciding whether to appeal the judge’s ruling.

The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence did not return CNSNews.com calls seeking further comment on the story but Dennis Henigan, the

Brady Center’s legal director, told *The Washington Post* his group was disappointed with the ruling.

“We have long thought that these cases ultimately will be decided by the appellate courts,” Henigan said.

Seven lawsuits filed against the gun industry have ended unfavorably for the cities that filed them, he added. The other cases are in various stages of proceedings, he said.

When the Cybercast News Service conducted an internet viewer poll asking readers if they thought crime in Washington, D.C. would rise or fall if the city’s gun ban was lifted, three percent said crime would rise, 91 percent said crime would fall, five percent said there would be no difference, and one percent were not sure.

# CCRKBA HONORS SEATTLE TALK HOST KIRBY WILBUR

Celebrating his tenth year in broadcasting, Seattle, WA radio talk host Kirby Wilbur is no stranger to defending the Second Amendment, a commitment that has earned him the CCRKBA Defender of the Month award.

The 49-year-old Wilbur was born in Washington, D.C., but grew up in Seattle, graduating from Queen Anne High School and the University of Washington. He has a Bachelor's degree in history, and currently teaches history at three home school cooperatives in the Seattle area. He also teaches American government, and Wilbur told CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman, "We spend a lot of time on the Second Amendment."

A member of the Washington Arms Collectors Board of Directors, he is also a Life Member of the National Rifle Association and a board member of the American Conservative Union. Along with another well-established conservative, Floyd Brown, Wilbur co-authored *Say the Right Thing*, a book that contains hundreds of quotations from national political leaders and historical figures. He met his wife, Trina, when the two were volunteers for the Ronald Reagan campaign in 1980. At the time, Kirby was chairman of the Washington State Young Republicans.

Before Wilbur became a talk host, he operated his own real estate appraisal business, and also worked for the King County, WA Assessor's office. He entered broadcasting as the host of a nighttime talk show, but then moved to mornings and became a powerhouse during the morning drive time. His inaugural program was during the summer of



1993, and when the tenth anniversary of that event rolls around later this year, no doubt he'll have some choice words to say about gun ownership being one of the guarantees that protects free speech and freedom of the press.

The couple has two sons, Nathan, 21 (named after Nathan Hale) and Adam, 16, (named after Adam Smith). The younger Wilbur sibling, says Kirby, "is a better shot than I am."

That does not mean Kirby is only a mediocre fellow on the trigger. The owner of several firearms, he is licensed to carry concealed and openly discusses that on his radio broadcast when the topic turns to firearms and self defense. He noted that the first credit card purchase he ever made was to buy a Ruger Mini-14, "And I have never looked back."

He has taken his entire family to the shooting range on many an occasion, and, though he personally does not hunt, Kirby has also become a staunch defender of sportsmen and women who occasionally come

under fire from animal rights zealots. He is a frequent public speaker.

When it comes to defending the right of private citizens to keep and bear arms, Wilbur has been a consistent standout on the airwaves of Seattle talk station KVI. His morning drive-time show is a ratings leader, and he never misses an opportunity to promote responsible firearms ownership, especially for personal protection. On the air, he has crossed horns with the most ardent anti-gunners, typically deflating their arguments, and allowing listeners to do likewise.

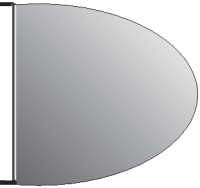
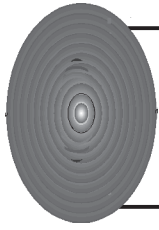
"I believe the Founders intended for the people to be armed to protect their liberty," Wilbur said, "and I greatly resent the liberals' attempt to distort that and take it away. I think the ultimate foundation of liberty is an armed populace, to resist an oppressive government, to protect themselves against criminals and to defend liberty.

"Responsible people," he continued, "have a right to own firearms to protect themselves. It's a God-given right, not granted by the Constitution. The Constitution just 'codifies' it."

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**[www.ccrkba.org](http://www.ccrkba.org)**



“There was a time when coming out strongly for gun control could help get you elected,” reports PR Week. “But these days, due either to a tide of libertarianism or the increasing strength of the gun lobby, promising to take guns away from Americans will get you nothing but unemployment checks.”



In one of the anti-gun redoubts, New York City, some members of the City Council allege criminals there are turning increasingly to children’s toy guns as their weapon of choice. They want their colleagues to consider banning the sale of plastic pistols altogether. Under a current law enacted five years ago, the city permits the sale of brightly colored toy guns so long as they are constructed entirely of transparent materials. Two council members, David Weprin of Queens and Albert Vann of Brooklyn, claim the existing legislation does not prevent criminals from “staining” or “taping” the toy guns black to make them appear realistic. “I’ve seen some of these toy guns, and they look awfully real,” said Dr. William Rogers, co-founder of Doctors for Sensible Gun Laws. “But when it comes to banning toy guns that look too real, I don’t know of any science about that.”



What’s so smart about so-called “smart guns?” When New Jersey recently mandated that all handguns sold in the state incorporate some form of personalization three years after the first such model is introduced, nationally-syndicated columnist Jacob Sullum had an

incisive reaction. “Revealingly,” he wrote, “the mandate exempts police weapons, even though research on personalized firearms was initially aimed at stopping criminals from firing guns grabbed during struggles with police officers. The exemption is also odd because one of the bill’s avowed goals is to prevent adolescent suicides. ‘What children have more access to guns than the children of police officers?’ asked a lobbyist who fought the mandate. Legislators must have recognized that police officers would not want their lives to depend on batteries, electronic chips or recognition devices that could fail in an emergency. As the Independence Institute’s Dave Kopel observes, ‘the police will not put up with a gun that is 99 percent reliable.’”

“While we already have some of the toughest gun laws in the world,” United Kingdom Home Secretary David Blunkett said recently, “there has been an unacceptable increase in the flagrant use of guns in crime across the country. Introducing a tough minimum sentence will send a clear message that serious, violent offending will invariably be dealt with in the strongest manner.” Officials of anti-gun Prime Minister Tony Blair’s government say they will press for a minimum five-year prison sentence for anyone caught with a handgun or automatic firearm, both of which have been outlawed for years. The law currently has no minimum sentence for carrying an illegal weapon, reports the Associated Press.

Last October, when two alleged snipers were terrorizing the Washington, D.C.-Virginia-Maryland area, police reportedly received 70,000 tips from people regarding what they considered suspicious activity. Now, law enforcement officials are sifting through the 70,000 tips, hoping the information will lead them to people who are possessing guns illegally. Jim Purtillo, Editor of Tripwire, a Maryland gun rights newsletter and a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, questions why the initiative is necessary since arrests were made in the case. He called it a “witch hunt.” He said he thinks many law-abiding people were reported by their neighbors simply because they owned firearms. “It’s a terrible allocation of resources and misplaced priorities,” he said. “If there were real criminals that were identified during the sniper investigation, I’m pretty sure they were already investigated.”

In Ottawa, Ontario, about 250 angry Canadian gun owners gathered New Year’s Day and some burned licenses to protest a new law requiring the registration of all firearms, according to Reuters. The demonstration was generally peaceful, but police arrested protest organizer Jim Turnbull after he brandished part of a firearm. “I have a fear of jail,” he said, “but it’s time to stand up for what I believe is right.”

